

## INFORMATION REPORT

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2. The Varonis Rubber Factory now employs 800 people and is producing almost exclusively conveyor belts for use in the oil-shale mines in Estonia. These belts, which are several miles long in length, are assembled from smaller lengths after they leave the factory. The conveyor belts are made from Soviet synthetic rubber which is sodium-butadiene polymer.
3. The largest rubber plant [redacted] in production in Riga is Sarkanais Quadrats which employs about one thousand workers and it is producing only rubber footwear from Soviet synthetic rubber. It is reported that these articles have little resistance or strength. A third rubber factory, "Meteors", recently closed down because of the lack of usable equipment.

4. Compared with the German Buna S, the Soviet synthetic rubber being used at Varonis is very soft and does not have to be softened as does Buna S. However, the Soviet synthetic rubber is not very strong and it does not have the high abrasion resistance found in Buna S. Therefore, the conveyor belts manufactured by Varonis have to be very frequently replaced.

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5. Soviet synthetic rubber was first made by a Russian chemist named Lebedev [redacted]

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[redacted] Lebedev was executed for some unknown reason by the Soviets in or about 1936. [redacted]

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6. Before [redacted] 1944, [redacted] the USSR scientists were very interested in cultivating a plant known as koksagyz which contains a latex-like fluid that can be coagulated into rubber and vulcanized when mixed with sulphur and heated. [redacted] it was one of the research projects that was carried on in 1944 at Varonis in Riga. [redacted] the results [redacted] research work with koksagyz, it was very sticky and oxidized easily in air. It was necessary to store it in cellophane bags and the rubber produced from koksagyz was of poor quality. However, the Soviets were using koksagyz in 1944 for a number of articles.

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7. [redacted] chemical factories are still [redacted] in operation but [redacted] the big super phosphate plant in Milgravis (a suburb of Riga) had recently stopped work because the Soviets had removed the lead plates necessary for the production of sulphuric acid from the plant. The main production of this plant was synthetic fertilizer made out of phosphate and sulphuric acid.

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8. The "Baltijas Vagonu Fabrika (Baltic Train Car Factory)" in Riga is still producing passenger train cars which are all shipped to the USSR. No new cars are needed in Latvia because the transportation of passengers in trains has been greatly reduced and no one is allowed to board a train in Latvia without a special permit.

9. The three important cellulose factories in Latvia are still [redacted] in operation. These plants are located in Riga, Sloka and Ligatne. The Ligatne factory was famous prior to World War II for the production of an excellent grade of paper which was exported to Western Europe. This plant is reported to manufacture the best paper of all the paper plants in the USSR and the entire production is sent to the USSR.

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10. [redacted] some of the Latvian women who were deported to Siberia in June 1941 have now returned to Riga but they are not allowed to reveal any of their experiences to anyone. None of the Latvian men deported at the same time [June 1941] have returned [redacted]

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